Justice Department to Seek Retrial Of Teamsters Union Leader Partin

7/10/71

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The government again will seek conviction of Edward Grady Partin, a Louisiana Teamsters Union official whose conspiracy trial in Butte, Mont., ended Thursday in a mistrial.

Justice Department officials denied yesterday that the decision to retry Partin was predicated on Partin's statement that he would come to Washington Aug. 20 and testify on behalf of former Teamsters president James R. Hoffa, who has been granted a rehearing before the U.S. Parole Board.

One Justice official said he "wasn't even aware" that Partin had been quoted by Associated Press saying, "He (Hoffa) was wronged and things should be made right."

Partin was a key government witness in a jury tampering conviction against Hoffa in 1964.

Speculation among Justice officials yesterday was that it would be November before Partin could be retired.

Before Hoffa's last bid for parole was denied on March 31, the Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader reported that Partin gave it a deposition in which he said he lied under oath in 1964 when he testified against Hoffa.

The deposition was unsigned, and Partin did not acknowledge subsequently that he actually was involved in the matter.

The New Hampshire newspaper is owned by William Loeb, a recipient of a $2 million Teamster loan and a staunch Hoffa supporter who has crusaded for Hoffa's release from prison for several years.

Partin remained free yesterday on $25,000 bond in the federal conspiracy offense on which he was indicted June 20, 1969.

The government charged that Partin had used strong-arm extortion in an attempt to gain control of the cement industry in Baton Rouge, La. He was accused on five counts of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act.

Partin was originally scheduled to be tried in Louisiana, but the trial was shifted to Butte on a change of venue sought by the defendant. After a four-week trial, the Montana jury could not reach a verdict.

A co-defendant, Ted F. Dunham Jr., owner of a Baton Rouge cement firm, was convicted of five counts of conspiracy at an earlier trial and is awaiting sentencing.